

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

Jessica Benton,
Plaintiff,
v.
City of Seattle,
Defendant.

No. _____

DECLARATION OF JESSICA BENTON

I, Jessica Benton, declare and state as follows:

1. The information contained in this declaration is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, and I am of majority age and competent to testify about the matters set forth herein.
2. I am a resident of Seattle and am a child mental health specialist and researcher.
3. I have attended protests in Seattle prior to July 25, 2020.
4. I attended the protest in Seattle during the afternoon on July 25, 2020 and I brought chemical goggles that I borrowed from a friend as protective gear.
5. When the march got to Cal Anderson Park I heard explosions and saw tear gas being deployed. I was with the march for 45 minutes before I had to leave because what I was wearing was insufficient when Seattle Police Department officers deployed noxious gases into the crowd.
6. Because I have asthma and use an inhaler, I face threat of hospitalization and serious injury if I am in a space where tear gas is deployed.

- 1 7. I had to leave the protest.
- 2 8. After attending that protest, where the use of gases was repeated and extensive, I set
- 3 about to get a gas mask so I could return to protest safely.
- 4 9. I called 5 hardware stores and spent 3 hours looking for a gas mask and none of the
- 5 stores had any available in stock.
- 6 10. I finally found and ordered a gas mask online for \$79.23 – a hardship for me, but I
- 7 felt it necessary.
- 8 11. Until my gas mask arrived, I did not feel comfortable protesting against police
- 9 brutality where Seattle Police Department officers would be in attendance. I would
- 10 have felt able to protest without a gas mask if Seattle Police Department officers
- 11 were prevented from using chemical agents, projectile guns, and blast balls.

12 Executed this 3RD day of August, 2020 at Seattle, WA.

13 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States and the
14 State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct.

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16 Jessica Benton
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